based access mechanism are stored on a single serial track of the unitary storage medium.

Remarks

Currently pending claims 10-29 are for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 10-17 are amended herein. Claims 18-29 are new.

The Examiner requested a new title "that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed." In response, Applicant has amended the title to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Examiner directed Applicant to amend the specification to insert section headings. In response, Applicant has the specification to insert section headings.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly "containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention."

The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly "being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention."

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

In a first rejection of claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner

alleges that "[c]laims 10-17 recite the feature of 'a highest level of TOC mechanism pointing to the audio items and lowest level TOC file points immediately to the respective contents' which were never exist in the original specification." The preceding feature alleged to be recited in claims 10-17, which has been amended herein in claim 10 to clarify the invention, appears in claim 1 of the originally submitted patent application and is thus not new matter. Applicant has amended the specification to include the amended preceding feature alleged to be recited in claims 10-17.

In a second rejection of claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner alleges that"[t]he features of 'storing on the unitary storage medium, a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information; the root directory containing the highest level file of the TOC mechanism ' (claims 10-17) are never exist in the original specification." The preceding features alleged to be recited in claims 10-17, which have been amended herein in claim 10 to clarify the invention, appear in claim 1 of the originally submitted patent application and are thus not new matter. Applicant has amended the specification to include the amended preceding features alleged to be recited in claims 10-17.

In a third rejection of claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner alleges that "the features 'wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism for the filed-based access mechanism ' (claims 10-17) are also never exist in original specification." The preceding features alleged to be recited in claims 10-17 appear in claim 1 of the originally submitted patent application and are thus not new matter. Claim 1 of

the originally submitted patent application claims: "furthermore assigning **a file-based access mechanism** to the audio-centered information through a ROOT directory which contains a highest level TOC file which points at various audio items, wherein said ROOT directory through item localizing information provides a further access mechanism **in addition to the TOC-based access mechanism**" (emphasis added).

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging "[t]he phrase 'A unitary medium produced by the method of claim 10' (claim 15 is unclear and cannot be understood. Claim 10 is completely silent about how to produce a unitary medium as claimed in claim 15. Therefore, it is unclear how to produce a unitary medium in this case." In light of the amendment to claim 15, Applicant contends that the rejection of claim 15 is moot.

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging "[t]he phrase 'standard ' (claim 16, line 4. For example, 'half the size of a conventional/standard/normal disk drive') is indefinite because elements in the art of varying size, dimensions, properties, etc. could all be considered to be conventional, standard or normal." In response, Applicant contends that claim 16 does not contain the language "half the size of a conventional/standard/normal disk drive" and therefore the Examiner's reason for rejecting claim 16 is not relevant to claim 16.

Conclusion

Accordingly, based on the preceding arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-29, and the entire application, are in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable action. However, should the Examiner believe anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be advantageous to resolve the issues presented, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Friedman

By: Jack P. Friedman
Reg. No. 44,688

Date: 12/06/2002

Schmeiser, Olsen & Watts
3 Lear Jet Lane
Suite 201
Latham, NY 12110
Email: jfriedman@iplawusa.com

APPENDIX A: Identification of Amended Material

Please amend claims 10-17 as follows:

10. (AMENDED) A method, comprising the steps of:

providing a unitary storage medium[:];

storing audio-centered information on the unitary storage medium;

storing on the unitary storage medium, a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a highest level [of the] TOC [mechanism] file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items; and

storing on the unitary storage medium, a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information[;], the root directory containing the highest level TOC file [of the TOC mechanism;],

[and] wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

11. (AMENDED) The method of [C]claim 10, wherein the root directory contains lower level directories that each pertain to a standardized audio format, thereby providing further access [mechanism] to the audio information at respective different levels.

12. (AMENDED) The method of [C]claim 10, wherein the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a

different respective standardized audio format.

13. (AMENDED) The method of [C]claim 12, wherein the number of Sub-TOC[s] file directories is exactly equal to 2.

14. (AMENDED) The method of [C]claim 12, wherein the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-channel audio format.

15. (AMENDED) A unitary storage medium [produced by the method of Claim 10.], comprising:

audio-centered information;

a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a highest level TOC file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items; and

a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information, the root directory containing the highest level TOC file, wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

16. (AMENDED) The unitary storage medium of claim 15, wherein:

the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file;

each directory uses a different respective standardized audio format; and

the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-channel audio format.

17. (AMENDED) A reader for an optical disc, comprising:

[disc holding means;]

optical reading means for producing a read signal from the optical disc;

disc driving means for moving the optical read means with respect to a track on the optical disc; and

access means for controlling the disc drive means for accessing information stored on the optical disc using access mechanisms of the disc, the access mechanisms including:

a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, [a highest level of the TOC mechanism pointing to the audio items and a lowest level TOC file points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items; and]

a file-based access mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing information[;] such that the root directory contain[ing]s the highest level TOC file [of the TOC mechanism;], a highest level TOC file that points to the audio items, and a lowest level TOC file that points immediately to the respective contents of the audio items,

[and] wherein the audio information is accessible using either the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.